

Whistling in the Dark



An Evaluation of the 'Scole Experiment'

FOREWARD

Occasionally a project comes along that creates a considerable furore, such a project is 'The Experiment'. This is a five-year ongoing project to obtain verifiable proof of life after death, the experiment conducted by the group claim to present irrefutable evidence of discarnate entities from the other side. 'the spirit team' actively assisting the researchers in the village of Scole in Southern England. The 'evidence' includes pictures, videotape, writing, symbols, 'apports', (items sent from the 'spirit realm' to the plain) physical touches, glimpses of various spirit limbs, displays of 'spirit lights' and voice transmissions recorded on audiotape. One of the designs gifted by the 'spirit scientists' to the Scole researchers is a sight a form of modified crystal set using a piece of Germanium (a semi-conductor) to achieve direct input to an tape recorder. It would be simple to de-bunk the findings and reports, but this would serve no purpose, it would certainly not present an alternative explanation for what transpired. Therefore, I shall approach the events as described with scepticism, which is quite different. I shall examine the 'proof' attempt to present an explanation which is grounded in physical terms albeit terms of high strangeness.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the entire project is the alleged existence of a series of parallel dimensions alongside not only our own, but also that of the inhabitants of the other side, our own ancestors and predecessors. There are some genuinely worrying aspects attached to the results and conclusions re-

by the Scole Team, not the least of these is the possibility that, presuming the existence of multi- la dimensions, there are some entities best not disturbed. These entities are apparently aware of us i physical realm and for their own reasons continually seek a means of entry.

The experiments and findings of the researchers were witnessed and verified by members of the British (Society of Psychical Research), this is presumed to provide independent corroboration of the validity experiments. The unopened 35 mm film cassettes used as part of the communication media were string controlled by SPR members to prevent the possibility of tampering by members of the research group same controls were also placed on videotapes used during he project. The eventual outcome of the five experiment was debatable 'proof' of an alternate dimension, an extension of the physical universe inh by non-corporeal entities, the spiritual essence that is part and parcel of humanity.



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The Scole Experiment and the group of volunteers who participated in it intended to present proof p of life after death, a continuing sentient existence that transcends the grave. For the outsider, from the it is necessary, almost a pre-requisite, to have an established belief in the validity of spiritualism and the of mediums to contact the spirits of the dead. This is in itself problematic and creates a mental barrier detracts from results obtained by the group. The trappings of spiritualism, the prayers, darkened room items such as trumpets etc. do not instil confidence in any observer prepared view the project both rati and scientifically. It is perhaps the determination of the participants to attach a religious significance proceedings that inevitably created a mantle of superstition that permeated the entire project. To b the use of religions trappings dates from the 1950's when, in order to avoid possible charges of witc under ancient arcane laws, prayer was introduced into the proceedings. This presumably removed the unclean spirits and allowed the meetings and ceremonies to continue in the name of God. It is the logic by which radio broadcasting was originally allowed into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. At first broadcasting was forbidden as the work of Satan, but when sutras from the Koran were transmitted, th proof positive that radio could not be the devil's work. Bear in mind this was only eighty years ago.

Certainly, during the project there appears to have been every attempt to create conditions wh trickery could be ruled out particularly relating to the handling of evidence such as rolls of unexposed film. It must be assumed that the rigorous procedures and protocols were put in place to satisfy the susp of independent observers from the SPR. The use of observers from an organisation such as the SPR is ii open to criticism. It appears implicit that the mere fact of SPR involvement guarantees impartial scrutin this is simply not the case. Irrespective of the number of doctors and professors who are members of th and how deeply they become involved with projects like the one instituted by the Scole group, it is means certain that their findings are impartial. The majority of those involved with groups like the SF themselves already halfway to believing in the validity of spiritualism and the alleged powers and abili mediums and psychics. The fact that they have letters after their name and are doubtless highly inte

people by no means guarantees that in certain circumstances they are not as gullible as anyone else. Therefore it is important to understand that supervision of this experiment by persons who are already sympathetic to the concepts used in the experiment must be a cause of careful scrutiny of the stated results.

The quasi-religious trappings that lie at the core of the experiment, i.e. prayers at the opening of the séance etc. are, despite the legal implications, in my opinion superfluous. If the experiment is intended to be scientific how then can one use a foundation based on mythology and superstition? This has all the makings of appeasing the gods with offerings to ensure a bountiful harvest. Another curious aspect of the experiment is the insistence on complete darkness during much of the proceedings, why? According to the Scole group, spirits find it difficult to operate under lighted conditions, maybe so, but there does not seem to be any justification for it. I have spoken to mediums that quite clearly state that it should make no difference whether it is light or dark, 'spirit' is there in either condition. The group and their spirit team forbade the use of infrared viewers to observe events, which is neither conducive to accurate recording nor objective observation.



At this point I should say that the spirit team consisted of scientists and technicians from the spirit world who had followed the same profession while still alive. Now on the other side, they have lost none of their intellect or curiosity and wish to aid us, their former cousins to commune between the two realities. As far as adherents of spiritualism are concerned, when we die, or 'pass over', our soul, spirit, essence, call it what you will, rejoins the whole once more and returns to a state of pure energy and harmony. Even on this other side, we still possess the same character that we had while here on this earthly plain. However, scientists or not, some alleged manifestations in terms of the physics involved are difficult to believe, in particular the apports. These apports are, as previously mentioned, items allegedly given to the Scole group by 'spirits' from within their own (spiritual) domain. The ready acceptance of these objects by the Scole team and more importantly the independent observers is odd. The independent observers who, if they are scientists, must apply some form of 'sanity check' to the events they witness, because the physics that achieve this apparently simple phenomenon are almost beyond comprehension. To de-materialise an object and then re-materialise it irrespective of size and also move its location has to be high on the list of impossible things in physics, unless there is another more testable science involved: the science of quantum mechanics or perhaps a particular 'Superstring Theory'. This current theory postulates that the smallest sub-atomic particles ever discovered, 'quarks', are never seen singly, always in two's and three's; what then holds them together? The answer is; even smaller particles called 'superstrings'. To give an idea of the scale of these particles...

superstring to an atom is as an atom is to the universe. Another factor for the physicists to consider these particles blink in and out of existence in nanoseconds, where do they go? For their theoretical equations to function, they realise there has to be, must be, a very special set of circumstances: parallel dimensions and universes, if they are not included then the maths simply do not work. These extra dimensions and universes are depicted as membranes, called 'D' branes essentially two-dimensional worlds, like two planes, height and width, and minute, "One ten millionth of a billionth of a millimetre in thickness, an analogy is a huge sheet of paper" (Scientific American August 2000). These parallel dimensions exist alongside our own; slightly out of phase, unable to receive or emit light, the only common denominator is gravity. Nowhere in the experiments and demonstrations is there a mention of this possibility, neither to participants nor the observers; all physical materialisations are attributed to supernatural agencies.

The subject of quantum mechanics is at the very core of reality, the study of sub-atomic particles, the building blocks of life. It is here, not in some fanciful ethereal world inhabited by spirits, ghosts and phantoms that the answer lies, not just to 'apports' but also to all phenomena recorded by the group. To understand the process we must have at least a basic understanding of what is involved. Previously, it was simpler all round to accept what happened as, depending on your outlook and belief, either an 'act of God' or magic and not to consider such unimportant issues as the 'how and why' of it. What is proposed here is in effect the re-transmitter of science fiction, de-materialise an object in one place and re-materialise it in another, receive it to its component atoms, transmit them, receive and rebuild them in precisely the same order elsewhere. In its most simplified form, quantum mechanics is the study of the infinitesimally small and it is here that the clue to our puzzle lies. These parallel dimensions exist alongside our own; slightly out of phase, unable to receive or emit light, the only common denominator is all pervasive gravity. One is irresistibly drawn to remarks attributed to author and guru Arthur C Clarke "If a technology is sufficiently advanced, it is indistinguishable from magic".

Decades ago Nikola Tesla the pioneering genius and inventor of, amongst other things, A/C motors searched for an answer to literally everything in the known universe was based on "Vibration, resonance and frequency" and he was right he was. His deductions were made before the invention of sophisticated devices like particle accelerators, or as they are sometimes called 'atom smashers'. Nevertheless using his own theoretical experiments he established that there was a common denominator in all things, he even claimed that if he wished, he could use the Earth's own resonant frequency against it to split the planet 'like an orange'. Fortunately, this was never put to the test, although the results would have been...interesting.



Therefore, in theory we have multiple dimensions co-existing with our own, but invisible and inaccessible in any physical sense. It is to these extra dimensions that we must turn in search of an answer. It is frequently suggested by the Scole group, the other side is only attainable after death, then how are mediums and others who profess special gifts able to achieve contact? In common with tribal shaman there has been an altered, although not necessarily elevated, state of consciousness. Correspondingly, why are 'apports' only a one-way phenomena, i.e. only available via the spirit side while we are unable to make them operate from this end? This suggests that entities from the 'other side' have solved the problem of manipulating sub-atomic particles sufficiently to allow the transportation of items. First however we must be clear that these 'apports' are not manufactured on the 'other side', they are items created on a very early

plain although why they should be sent at all is puzzling. Do the entities acquire the various objects (plane and physically transport them to the site of their appearance or, are they physically present (other side and sent directly from there? Are the items personal effects previously belonging to the spirit or taken randomly and despatched? We shall take the points in order;

a) Why are apports one-way phenomena? This is relatively simple to answer, because they, the 'spirits' are evidently able to manipulate the items component atoms and we as yet cannot.

b) Do the entities acquire the items on this plane or are the items physically present on their plane? The answer has to be most emphatically: this plane. Unless we introduce yet another facet, that of ideal mirror image existences within the dimensions, it has to be the answer. If it were not, it would imply that we die, we take all our baggage and belongings with us to send back as and when we see fit, manifestly not so. If it were, once again we are sucked remorselessly into a nebulous world where every animate or inanimate has a soul and a 'life' in its own right. We are already at the very edge of postulating dealing with parallel dimensions and universes without bringing in additional and unwanted philosophical considerations. Therefore, rather like physicists who had to set protocols allowing development of 'quantum theory' which in turn posits the existence of parallel realities. Although believers in Animism profess that everything, animate or otherwise possesses a spirit, for convenience we will rule out the possibility of inanimate objects possessing a soul.

For our purposes, the appearance of 'apports' is, although an amazing display of theoretical physics, an earthly manifestation, and a manifestation that we will eventually be able to emulate. It does however create an anomaly in the culture/technology of the other side. If demonstrations such as apports were possible, which suggests remarkable skills and abilities, why was no other means of communication other than what is in effect a crystal set produced? Further, it is implied that such notables as Thomas Alva Edison on hand to aid members of the 'spirit team' in their attempts at communication with the Scole group? Edison? Although this perhaps explains the use of a germanium crystal since in Edison's day, this would be a technical indeed. Why not Nikola Tesla, John Logie Baird or Alan Turing, why not Albert Einstein or any number of deceased geniuses more technically accomplished than Edison? Apparent lapses in logic such as this niggling doubts.

Another of the groups' experiments was entitled, for obvious reasons, 'Project Alice' and involved setting up a video camera aligned to record the images on a mirror; the device is known as a 'double psychomanteum'. A psychomanteum is used in divination where the sitter is placed in front of a mirror and, after meditation is reputed to see an image of what ever they wish in the, mirror. These devices were used millenia ago, fashioned from polished brass and copper to consult with oracles. The Scole group for communication with the other side used this modern version. It was during this particular phase that perhaps the most interesting of all the images was captured that of the entity 'Blue'. This entity, the spirit team informed them was transdimensional: 'Blue' is identical in appearance to a 'Grey'! If this is indeed the case, then many reports with regard to UFOlogy will have to be re-assessed, particularly those dealing with the origins and their occupants.

There are opinions abroad today that proclaim evil hiding at every twist and turn of life, this speculation includes contact with entities in other dimensions, let us for convenience call them the dead. Once turning to the entity 'Blue', our eponymous 'Grey', we find in many places (chiefly among fundamentalist Christian teaching) that UFOs and their occupants are viewed as emissaries of Satan. The fundamentalist viewpoint states that they {the UFOs} are sent here to create confusion and uncertainty and divert the flow of energy from the path of light; this is, in certain instances, also applied to the use of computers. There are several opinions on this, all of which quote biblical references to corroborate their view, "The occultist is brought into intelligent communication with the spirits of the air, and can receive any knowledge which they possess, any false impression they care to impart...the demons seem permitted to perform various wonders at the request." (G. H. Pember, 'Earth's Earliest Ages and Their Connection with modern Spiritualism and Theosophy' (1876)) "While the New Testament uses the Greek word 'demon' to refer to these 'sons of the air', the Old Testament use revealing descriptive names, words which describe these beings, such as Elohim, 'sons of God', Zophim, 'the watchers', and Malakh, 'messengers', (translated as angels in English) but used for 'airial host' often regardless of the alignment. New Testament demons were understood to be associated with evil, since originally, the Greek term daimon meant 'any deity' and the Bible consistently portrays only one God. There are three main terms for demons in the New Testament: daimonion (demon; 50 in the Gospels); pneuma (spirit; some 52 times) usually with a qualifying adjective such as akathartion (unclean; 21n times) or poneron (evil; 8 times); and angelos (7 times of demonic agencies). Daimon (demon) the term commonly used in classical Greek appears only once (Mark 8:31) (Baker's Evangelical Dictionary).

Biblical Theology – Walter A. Elwell (Ed)). This viewpoint proves that translation is vitality important, e alternative translation of Demon is 'Teacher' (author).



To quote a proponent of similar opinions, the Rev Jim Peasboro author of the rather improbable book 'The Computer Machine', "While the computer age has ushered in many advances, it has also opened another doorway through which Lucifer and his minions can enter and corrupt souls". Based on his proposition that demons can possess anything with a brain the Reverend continues, "Any PC built after 1985 has the storage capacity to house an evil spirit. I learned that many members of my congregation became in touch with a demon whenever they used their computers. Decent happily married fathers were drawn irresistibly to pornography websites and forced to witness unspeakable abominations. Housewives who had never expressed an interest in computers thought they were entering into chat-rooms and spewing foul, debased language they would not use nor understand. One woman confessed to me that she felt as if she were taken over when she was on the computer. The minister said he probed one such case, actually logging on to the parish computer himself. To his surprise an artificial intelligence programme fired up without being initialised. "The programme began talking directly to me, it typed out, 'Preacher, you are a weakling and your God is a liar'. According to the Rev. Peasboro the computer machine went haywire and printed out what appeared to be gobbledegook. "I later had an expert in computer languages examine the text, it turned out to be a stream of obscenities written in a 2,800 year old Mesopotamian dialect"

This surprising (and unlikely) turn of events caused the Reverend to investigate the problem further to uncover some alarming 'facts', "I learned most of the youths involved in school shootings like the tragic Columbine High were computer buffs, I have no doubt that the computer exerted an influence on their behavior. The minister estimates that one in ten of computers in America house some type of evil spirit"

Although there is a school of thought holding that a sense of presence or identity can be imbued into inanimate objects through the interaction of human beings: the 'Philip Experiment' conducted in California during the 1970's is a good example. This type of reasoning is difficult if not impossible to accept since it presumes that computer processors are independently sentient in their own right. Irrespective of memory, BIOS, RAM, processor or software, domestic computers cannot in any biological sense be termed intelligent. To possess this ability, a computer would have to be capable of independent and original thought, in

words: intuition. So far, this has not happened, hopefully it never will.

Irrespective of how strange it may seem everything that occurred at Scole has its basis in cutting rational physics. Nothing is 'supernatural' per se in terms of discarnate entities possessing magical qualities that amaze and alarm us. What is particularly astounding is the mechanism by which dimensional manipulation is achieved. Precisely how this is attained is the final answer to the final question. A psychic philosopher that would explain all other enigmas, rather like physicists and their continuing search for the 'the everything'. How the manipulation is achieved is a matter for speculation at this time but it may well be a factor of the varying frequencies between dimensions enabling the subatomic particles within a dimension to be manipulated at will. Whatever the cause it is only a matter of time before it is discovered and understood, truly, there are some interesting times ahead.

AFTER-WORD

The Scole Group are based at **The New Spiritual Science Foundation, Street Farmhouse, Scole, Nr Norfolk, IP21 4DR**. E mail: scolex@psisci.force9.co.uk The vast majority of sittings and phenomena took in a specially converted cellar at the Foy's home at Street Farmhouse.

The group comprised a core of seven people: Robin and Sandra Foy, Alan and Diana Bennett, to preserve a measure of anonymity, the following members are referred to by first name only, Ken, Bernette and Mi previously stated, The Society for Psychical Research who had representative present oversaw the project. One of the referees, Mr Montague Keen can be contacted at Mkeen7225@aol.com other SPR attendees were David Fontana and Arthur Ellison. The address of the SPR is: **The Society for Psychical Research, Marloes Road, London, W8 LA**

I contacted Montague Keen and another observer Prof Robert Morris from the parapsychology department at Edinburgh University. Mr Keen is supportive of the group and validates some of their findings. Prof Morris on the other hand does not. To be fair, he only attended one sitting of the group towards the end of the experiment and to quote Prof. Morris "Well, not a great deal happened". It was clear from the conversation that Prof. Morris, although widely experienced in parapsychology and the paranormal would like to see something rather more concrete.

Regarding the question of the images captured on both film and videotape; a telephone conversation with Robin Foy was equally revealing, according to Robin: "The images tend to fade". This is one of the aspects of spiritualism that tend to cast doubt upon it. If an image is captured conventionally on either photographic emulsion or magnetic recording tape, then it is either present or it is not. The dyes used in photographic processing can fade over time particularly in strong sunlight; this is not in dispute, but over a few months images on videotape should in the short term be virtually permanent unless altered by another magnetic field either erasing or supplanting them, but fading? No. The only time that natural degradation of an image on a tape can occur without the application of an external magnetic source is over a lengthy period of time when 'crosstalk' from the separate magnetic layers of tape on the cassette or reel affects the layers adjacent to it. This information was obtained from BBC TV Scotland's Technical Resource Dept. They went on to explain that: "Recording companies are experiencing a similar problem on older musical recordings stored on standard reels of 2 inch magnetic tape".

On the matter of the entity 'Blue' and its implications, Robin, although recognising the event seemed remarkably unimpressed when put into context with the other discoveries. When I offered my theories on the theoretical 'proof' of additional dimensions and universes and how they might help corroborate the existence of 'Blue' and the other findings, while accepting the possibility he quite properly said that "Could not comment because he was not familiar with the theory". Montague Keen said the same referring me instead to the extensive archive of the SPR. To be honest I find this rather disappointing as it appears that rather than search for answers in terms of hard, testable science, the very people who should be doing this are content to reinforce their own paradigm. Ultimately, it may be that the answers will emerge from smaller, less entrenched groups of researchers who possess the best tool of all: an open mind

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